

FADE IN:

EXT. LONDON STREET. DAY.

A cobblestone street in the rain. We see an old fashioned antique shop sandwiched between two modern-looking coffee shops. The shop looks out of place, like it's been placed there from another century, the goods inside even more so. Outside stands three people, two elderly GRANDPA and GRANDMA (both 50), and CLARA (7), all three dressed in black. A model train-set is visible inside the shop, the train is red with a gold trim. Clara seems entranced by it, focusing on it until a cat runs across her feet and through a catflap into the shop. She gets shepherded away by her grandparents. The scene changes to night and Clara comes back. She peers into the shop and see's it's empty. She sneaks in through the catflap.

INT. ANTIQUE SHOP. NIGHT.

Clara climbs into the shop through the catflap. She looks around and dusts herself off. Small amount of lights are turned on around the shop, enough to be visible but not enough to actually provide illuminations for the surroundings. The sole exception is the train-set, the train is still going, slowly moving along the tracks. Clara approaches it with a sense of wonder on her face. She looks down at it and imagines one of the figures on the train moving, smiling and waving at her.

MISSY

Enjoying yourself?

Clara turns round and MISSY (45) emerges from the shadows, not so much walking but seemingly gliding, a stern look on her face.

MISSY (CONT'D)

Didn't Mummy ever tell you not to play with someone's toys?

CLARA

Mummy's dead. She and Daddy died in car crash.

MISSY

Oh, that's so sad. Sorry to hear that. Would you like to see them?

Clara nods. Missy leans over the train and points at one of the carriages. Clara looks at where she's pointing and see's a model there that looks just like her.

INT. MODEL TRAIN. NIGHT.

Clara finds herself on the train. She looks out the window and see's a giant version of herself and Missy looking at them. She looks around the train and see's her parents (Both 30). She walks towards them but is slowed down by people suddenly appearing in front of her. The train gets more full as she gets closer to them, she gets within touching distance of them when the train goes through a tunnel and darkness envelopes the carriage. The train comes out the other side of the tunnel, only this time it's empty of people apart from Clara, and Missy who has appeared behind her. A sign on the tunnel outside changes from 1972 to 1973. Clara cries out in anguish.

CLARA

Mummy? Daddy?

MISSY

They're off the train.

CLARA

Where?

As the train continues on its journey, more and more people start to appear on it.

MISSY

Sorry, work calls. Be a good girl and stay seated.

Clara looks out the window and see's her Grandparents enter the shop handing out a picture of Clara. She knocks on the window.

CLARA

Grandpa! Grandma! I'm in here.

They can't hear her. The train goes through the tunnel and empties of all but Clara again. The sign changes from 1974 to 1975. She looks up and down the carriage for Missy but can't find her. She looks out the window and sees her grandparents again, this time looking more tired than usual, her grandmother walking uneasily. The train goes through the tunnel again and the sign changes to 1976. This pattern repeats. Clara talking to people as they appear on the train next to her, her grandparents coming into the shop with a picture of Clara, the train going through the tunnel and the year changing. This repeats until the sign says 1988, and her grandfather comes into the shop alone. Clara stands up and starts to walk through the train. She walks into a new carriage and sees her grandmother there.

CLARA (CONT'D)

Grandma!

GRANDMA

Clara?

Grandma starts to cry and hugs Clara tightly.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Where were you?

CLARA

I've been here Grandma.

GRANDMA

I thought you'd gone forever.

CLARA

I've only been gone a short while.

GRANDMA

Ever since that day you went missing over ten years ago I've been worried about you. But now I've found you. It's been so long.

CLARA

Ten years?

The train enters the tunnel and the lights go out again. When they come back on the train has been emptied again. Clara storms through the train carriages until she finds Missy.

CLARA (CONT'D)

I want her back.

Missy has a look of feigned innocence upon her face.

CLARA (CONT'D)

I want to go home.

MISSY

Now that I can't do.

CLARA

Why?

MISSY

Most people travel on here for at most twelve months. You've been here more than ten times that, and for free. You owe me sixteen years of fares young lady.

CLARA

But how can I pay? I don't have money.

Missy snaps her fingers and it starts travelling backwards at an accelerated rate. It finally draws to a stop.

MISSY

You work. You provide the citizens of this city with comforts on their way to the afterlife. Nobody owes you your happy ending, you have to earn it.

CLARA

How long for?

MISSY

Until you get back.

Missy walks away revealing the counter behind her is now at zero. The train moves slowly and Clara steels herself. We see a montage, the entire history of London via it's citizens unfolds in front of us. Entire class structures are broken as Kings and Queens wine and dine alongside peasants and farmers. As the years roll on Clara stays the same age, the only clue to her long service being the look in her eyes changing from hope, to despair, to determination.

FADE OUT: